

FOURTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE

INDIANA INSTITUTE

FOR THE

EDUCATION OF THE BLIND

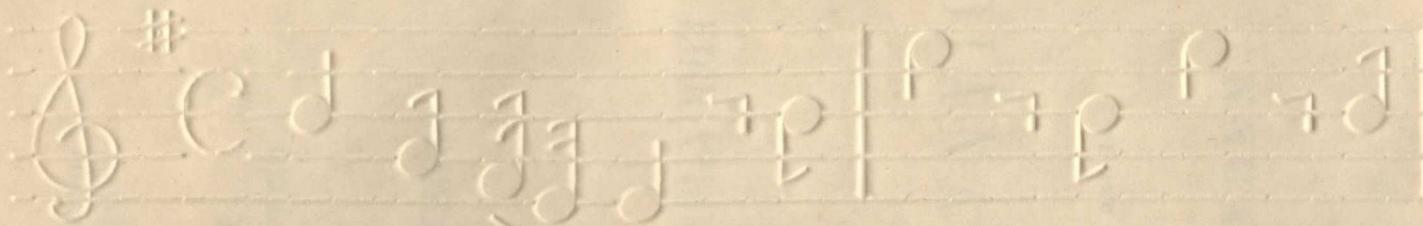
TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

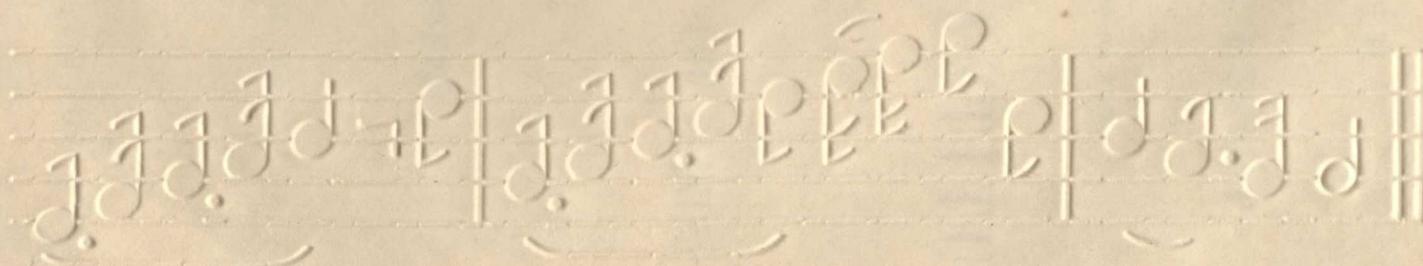
DECEMBER 16, 1850.

INDIANAPOLIS:
J. P. CHAPMAN, STATE PRINTER.
1850.

PRINTED BY M. SNIDER,
PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.
SLOW. "TOTAL ECLIPSE." HANDEL.



TOTAL ECLIPSE! NO SUN, NO MOON, ALL.



DARK, ALL DARK AMID THE BLAZE OF NOON.

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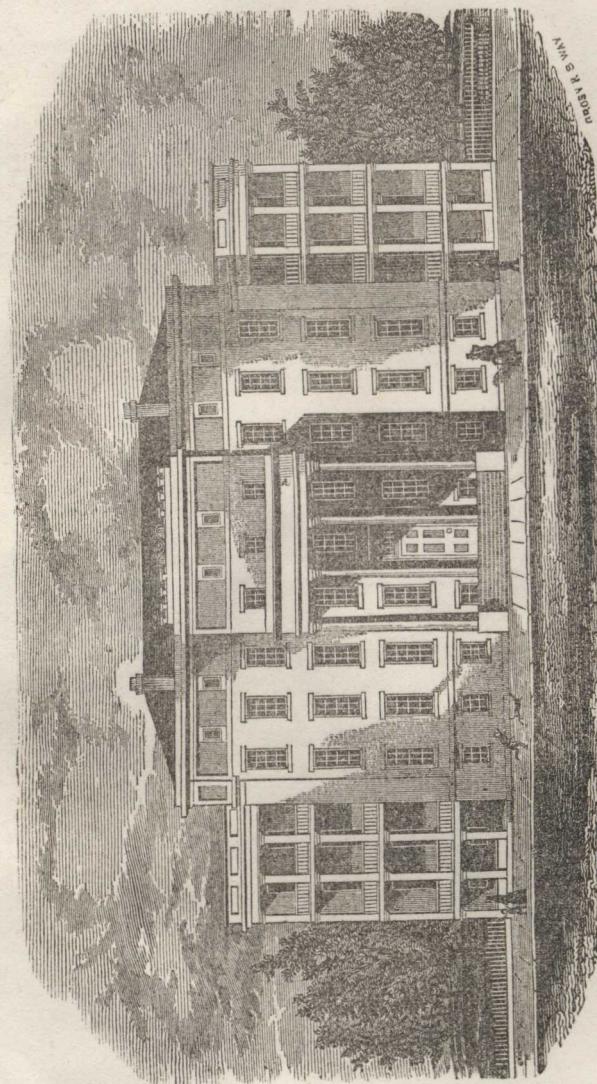
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INDIANA INSTITUTE FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

CATALOGUE OF PUPILS.

Number.	Names.	Residence.	When ad-mitted.	Cause of Blindness.
1	Aaron Gyger,.....	Lawrence County,	1847,	
2	Nelson W. Richhart,.....	Kosciusko "	Oct. 1	Scarlet Fever,
3	Susanna E. Richhart,.....	" "	" 1	Congenital,
4	John M. Richhart,.....	" "	" 1	Congenital,
5	Albertus Taylor,.....	Fountain,	" 1	Congenital,
6	*Daniel Bykit,.....	Henry,	" 1	Congenital,
7	John Bykit,.....	" "	" 1	Congenital,
8	George O. Work,.....	Allen,	" 5	Congenital,
9	Isaac M. Easley,.....	Montgomery "	" 5	Accident
10	+Lorenzo T. Tucker,.....	Jackson,	" 6	Congenital,
11	Eliza Kineear,.....	Jefferson,	" 6	Accident,
12	William E. Read,.....	Ohio,	" 7	Congenital.
13	Wm. H. McQuerry,.....	Hancock,	" 7	Whooping Cough,
14	Lawrence D. Taylor,.....	Marshall,	" 7	Inflammation.
15	Wm. T. Fleming,.....	Howard,	" 16	Fever.
16	*Michael Courtney,.....	Decatur,	Nov. 3	Congenital.
17	Geo. W. Culbertson,.....	Wayne,	" 23	Fever,
18	Margaret Belches,.....	Jefferson,	" 25	Amaurosis.
			1848,	
19	Benjamin Morrow,.....	Montgomery,	Jan. 8	Cataract.
20	Geo. W. Hibbits,.....	Dearborn,	" 31	Congenital.
21	J. S. R. Bergin,.....	Marion,	Feb. 16	Accident.
22	Eli Denny,.....	Hamilton,	Apr. 1	Congenital.
23	John Leonard,.....	Owen,	June 1	Scarlet Fever.
24	Garey Stafford,.....	Union,	Oct. 18	Inflammation.
25	Sarah S. Morgan,.....	" "	" 18	Inflammation.
			1849,	
26	Altha A. Paxton,.....	Henry,	Feb. 13	Accident,
27	+Louisa Helton,.....	Morgan,	June 1	Congenital.
28	Silas Helton,.....	" "	" 1	Congenital.
29	Mark Maudlin,.....	Washington,	Oct. 1	Accident.
30	Mary Boileau,.....	Harrison,	" 1	Inflammation.
31	Isaac Cook,.....	Wayne,	" 1	Congenital.
32	James O. Johnson,.....	" "	" 1	Congenital.
33	+Phoebe A. Robinett,.....	Hancock,	" 1	Scrofula.
34	Margaret E. Barnes,.....	Decatur,	" 11	Congenital.
35	Sarah C. Barnes,.....	" "	" 11	Congenital.
36	John W. Record,.....	Marion,	" 19	Accident.
37	Rachel Martin,.....	Randolph,	" 19	Congenital.
38	Carolina Groff,.....	Fayette,	" 23	Congenital.
39	John G. Witt,.....	Dearborn,	Dec. 5	Measles.
			1850.	
40	John Davis,.....	Fountain,	June 6	Winter Fever.
41	Charles A. Nelson,.....	Bartholomew,	Oct. 7	Inflammation.
42	Alexander Campbell,.....	Decatur,	" 7	Congenital.
43	Wm. H. Young,.....	Jackson,	" 7	Amaurosis.
44	James Jackson,.....	Switzerland,	" 7	Congenital.
45	Wm. T. Tooms,.....	Scott,	" 7	Congenital.
46	Robert Cope,.....	Jefferson,	" 7	Congenital.
47	Allen Thorn,.....	Lawrence,	" 8	Inflammation.
48	Rebecca Sedam,.....	Johnson,	" 9	Scarlet Fever.
49	Sarah A. Hamilton,.....	Sullivan,	" 18	Congenital.
50	M. Ann Smith,.....	Harrison,	" 23	Congenital.
51	Nancy C. Smith,.....	" "	" 23	Congenital.
52	Mary J. Raineking,.....	Floyd,	Nov. 7	Congenital.

*Honorable discharged. +Left. ||Deceased.

OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTE.

TRUSTEES.

GEORGE W. MEARS, *Chairman.*
SETON W. NORRIS, *Treasurer.*
JAMES M. RAY, *Secretary.*

ACTING SUPERINTENDENT:

W. H. CHURCHMAN.

B. M. FAY,
Miss E. M. CURTIS, } *Assistant Teachers.*

L. S. NEWELL, *Teacher of Music.*

S. McGIFFIN, *Teacher of Handicraft.*

Mrs. M. G. DEMOSS, *Matron.*

DR. MEARS, *Visiting Physician.*

REPORT.

To the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

The Trustees of the Institute of the State for the education of the Blind, present their fourth annual Report.

It will be gratifying to the Legislature to observe a continued increase of the number of the afflicted blind of the State, who enjoy the beneficent provisions made by the people for their improvement.

The whole number of pupils, participating in the instruction of the Institute in the past year, has been fifty-two.

Adequate provision has been made for the education of the present number of pupils and of any anticipated increase of the year before us.

The continued fidelity of Mr. W. H. Churchman in superintending and of the other Instructors in the literary department, as well as of those engaged in teaching music and handicraft, and of the Matron, has been attended with gratifying success.

The resignation of Miss Eliza M. Hamilton, whose brief connection with the Institute had given us much hope of her success, was tendered on account of ill health, and accepted.

The valuable services of Miss Editha M. Curtis, as a teacher, have been again secured, she having been necessarily disconnected with the Institute during part of the year.

On account of the large proportion of male scholars, several of whom are young men, the Trustees have been for some time past desirous of procuring the addition of a male teacher of suitable capacity and promise of usefulness; and therefore we availed ourselves of the vacancy occurring, to effect such object. Not having

such a teacher, experienced with the blind, offered to us after inquiry, as was desired, we were gratified in procuring by appointment, the services of Mr. Barnabus M. Fay, who had, for six years, discharged the duties of an Instructor in the New York Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, which is under the charge of Dr. Peet, the distinguished Principal. As the same desire to benefit the afflicted, which led Mr. Fay to engage for so many years in the instruction of mutes, has determined him to devote his life to the improvement of the blind, we have every confidence, from his talents, deportment and whole influence, that he will be a valuable acquisition to the Institute.

We have continued to authorize exhibitions, during the vacation by the acting superintendent, with some of the pupils, which have been given in as many counties of the State, as was practicable. But little expense is thus incurred, and even this would be cheerfully discharged by the citizens, but that it is our direction, that no charitable appeals should be made.

These exhibitions of the attainments of the pupils of the Institute will be successively extended to the various portions of the State, bringing thus, to the friends of the ignorant and helpless blind, convincing proof of their capability of improvement.

As authorized by law, we have applied part of the means intrusted to our charge in the construction of an excellent stone foundation for the main building of the Institute, the plan of which having been adopted, after its examination and approval by the officers of the principal Institutions for the blind in the United States.

Pursuing the settled policy of the Board to invite fair competition in every leading branch of expenditure by receiving public proposals, and to insure the lowest bids which prompt payment will justify by providing for the punctual discharge of every obligation incurred, we have procured the materials and workmanship of approved quality, at very favorable rates.

In this, as in every branch of disbursement, the means are only drawn from the Treasury, in such limited sums as they are needed, and every account has to be allowed by the Board before becoming a charge to the Fund.

It will, we trust, meet the views of the General Assembly to extend such an enlargement of means to this department of the public benevolence, as will permit a progress, in the erection of the main

building for the Institute, such as a regard to the best management of its operations, and to the increasing demands of the blind of the State calls for.

We have for the first time to record the decease of pupils; three of our most promising scholars having died during the past year, not however of disease to be ascribed peculiarly to their residence here—on the contrary, we are well satisfied, that the health of the inmates of the Institute, under the attention faithfully given to their cleanliness, exercise and general habits, is much safer, than it would ordinarily be, at their respective homes.

We cannot forbear to testify to the unwearied care and attention of our excellent Matron, Mrs. Demoss, during the illness of the pupils. She merits and receives, together with the sympathizing teachers and fellow pupils, our warmest commendations.

These sad and repeated providences admonish us of the obligation we owe to the pupils and their friends, that while their hands are trained to useful craft, and their minds to research and perception, they shall be faithfully pointed by those engaged in their instruction, to that gracious Redeemer, whose delight, when upon earth, was to give sight to the blind, and through whom, that eternity, so near to them, may be an eternity of vision and joy.

We add a summary, classifying the objects of expenditure of the year comprised in the Treasurer's statement, herewith submitted:

SUMMARY.

Salaries of Superintendent, Teachers and Matron,	\$1,982 50
Groceries, Provisions, and Provender,	1,755 01
Domestic hire,	649 68
Personal property for use of household department, . .	240 18
Fuel,	203 25
Drugs, medicines, medical attendance and funeral ex- penses,	164 03
Advanced for clothing of pupils,	80 00
School apparatus,	24 95
Books, stationery and printing,	91 73
Musical instruments and repairs on same,	12 75
Tools and fixtures for work department,	41 87

Raw material for work department,	1,121 89
Labor and instruction in " "	341 06
Insurance on personal property of the Institute,	22 00
Postage,	18 00
Miscellaneous expenses,	17 05
	\$6,765 95
Expenses of tour with pupils,	101 35
Erecting cellar walls of main building, including excavation for the same,	3,737 24
Erection of a brick building stables, carriage house and store room,	901 59
Miscellaneous improvements and repairs,	414 01
Discharge of Loan from the Sinking Fund in anticipation of the revenue,	2,500 00
Add amount unexpended in hands of Superintendent Nov. 1, 1850, above the amount of last report,	412 90
Total amount,	\$14,833 04

The attention of the Legislature is invited to the accompanying detailed and comprehensive report of the acting Superintendent, and to the important suggestions therein which merit the careful consideration of the friends of the blind.

Respectfully submitted.

GEO. W. MEARS,
S. W. NORRIS,
JAMES M. RAY, } Trustees.

INDIANAPOLIS, December, 6, 1850.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

ms I submitted out of our differ books as follows and to
To the Trustees of the Ind. Institute for the Education of the Blind;

GENTLEMEN:—The undersigned in compliance with a duty devolving upon him as the executive head of the Institute under the care of your board, would respectfully submit his fourth annual report of the condition and progress of its several departments, as follows:

In taking a retrospective view of the history of our interesting charge during the year just closed, it is not without feelings of the most profound gratitude to "Him that tempers the wind to the shorn lamb," that I am enabled to tell of continued prosperity in its mission of love to the sons and daughters of affliction. At no previous time since the foundation of the Institute have you had so much cause for congratulation upon the success of the benevolent enterprise entrusted to your guardianship. Though the school has but just entered upon its fourth session, its registry contains the names of no less than fifty-nine of Indiana's afflicted children, a larger number we think than has been received within the same time after its organization, by any other institution for the Blind in this country, if not in Europe. Some of these have already gone forth into the world with greatly increased facilities, both for happiness and usefulness, while the remainder are with few exceptions, still members of our happy family, drinking greedily at the fountains of knowledge, or plying their several industrial occupations, their hitherto dormant faculties springing into newness of life under the vivifying influence of the light of truth, and their desponding hearts, to which Hope had long been a stranger, rousing up into fresh energy in view of the brighter day now dawning upon them. But by no

means the least gratifying evidence of success, may be found in the steadily increasing interest in our cause which is manifested in every section of the State. The universal sentiment expressed by the numerous visitors who pass through our apartments, witnessing the attainments of the pupils and the means provided for their comfort and improvement, is that of grateful satisfaction and a determination to do all in their power to further an enterprise fraught with so much good.

OFFICERS.

Of the several officers associated with me in the Institute, I am happy in being able as heretofore, to bear most gratifying testimony; and I believe I hazard nothing in the assertion that for harmony of intercourse, and efficiency in the discharge of their respective duties, they are unsurpassed by the faculty of any similar institution.

The resignation of Miss E. M. Hamilton on the first of March last in consequence of the failure of her health, was a source of unfeigned regret to her associates and pupils, as well on account of that courtesy and amiability of deportment which rendered her so agreeable a companion, as of the loss we sustained in the withdrawal of her services from a field of labor for which she seemed so eminently qualified.

We have reason to hope however, that in her successor, Mr. B. M. Fay, who entered upon the discharge of his duties at the commencement of the current session, we will find an officer no less qualified in any respect for the station. The field is indeed a new one to him, but he has entered it with an evident determination to devote himself permanently to the work; and from such evidence as has already been given, we cannot doubt of his success as an instructor of the Blind.

Miss E. M. Curtis was also obliged on the first of April, to sever for a time her connection with us, on account of the sickness and death of her mother; but she resumed the duties of her post as assistant in the school department and instructor of female handicraft, with the opening of the present session. During the absence of Miss C., Mrs. M. M. Churchman at your solicitation, kindly consented to assume the charge of her department.

PUPILS.

At the date of our last annual report, our school numbered thirty-eight pupils. Since that time fourteen others have been received, making the entire number in attendance during the year, fifty-two, But of this number, six have left, viz:

SILAS and LOUISA HELTON of Morgan county.

PHEBE A. ROBINETT of Hancock county,

LORENZO T. TUCKER of Jackson county,

DANIEL BYRKIT of Henry county,

MICHAEL COURTNEY of Decatur county.

Three also have been removed by death, viz:

GEORGE W. CULBERTSON of Wayne county,

JOHN S. R. BERGIN of Marion county,

GEORGE W. HIBBITTS of Dearborn county.

This leaves the number at present connected with the Institute, forty-three.

Silas and Louisa Helton left informally after remaining only a few months with us; and therefore received but little benefit from their connection with the Institute.

Phebe A. Robinett returned home in the latter part of December, in consequence of her sight having so far improved, as to prevent her being benefitted by our methods of instruction.

Lorenzo T. Tucker and Daniel Byrkit, after having made themselves acquainted with several branches of handicraft, returned to their respective homes with a view of applying their knowledge to practice in the way of self-maintenance. They are cordially recommended to the kindness and patronage of the community as competent workmen.

Michael Courtney has also become quite expert in the manufacture of willow-work and brooms, and is temporarily engaged as an assistant in our willow department, though he expects in a short time to make an effort to establish himself in business. Should he do so, he too will carry with him the confidence of both officers and pupils, as well as their sincere desire for his success.

Most of this year's increase in our numbers, like that of the last, is the result of our travelling with some of the advanced pupils for

the purpose of visiting the Blind at their homes, and of making public exhibitions of the practicability of our system of instruction, in parts of the State, remote from the capital. It is earnestly recommended therefore, that these tours be continued annually until every county in the State shall have been traversed. The labor and expense attendant upon such journeys, are by no means trivial; but if we would extend the blessings of education to all the young blind within our borders, we must for reasons presented at length in previous reports, pursue this as the most effective means of accomplishing the desired end. Besides, it enables a large class of our citizens whose business never calls them to the seat of Government, and who would therefore never be able to visit us, an opportunity of witnessing the gratifying fruits of their beneficence in the support of the Institute, which goes far to insure a continuation of their cheerful co-operation with the General Assembly, in its noble efforts to ameliorate the condition of an afflicted though well deserving class of their fellow citizens.

Our recent tour of some of the southern counties, made under the instructions of your board, was commenced at the close of the last session, and occupied nearly four weeks. The counties visited on this occasion were the following, viz: Johnson, Bartholomew, Jackson, Washington, Harrison, Floyd, Clark, Scott, Jefferson, Switzerland, Ohio, Dearborn, Ripley, Decatur and Shelby.

We found numerous eligible subjects for instruction in the course of our route, the most of whom have since been placed under our charge. We also gave public exhibitions in most of the principal towns, which were generally well attended, and did much we trust to interest the hearts of the people in our philanthropic work.

We received everywhere marked attention from members of the Legislature and others, for which we would embrace this opportunity to tender our grateful acknowledgments.

The law of the last session of the Legislature, requiring the county Assessors to report the name, age and residence of each deaf and dumb, blind and insane person throughout the State to the Auditors of their respective counties, aided us somewhat in our search for scholars during the trip referred to; but the assistance from this source was not as great as was designed by the General Assembly, on account of the very imperfect manner in which the law was carried out. The cause of the failure on the part of many of the

county officers, to comply fully with the requisitions of the act alluded to, may in this instance be mainly attributable to the fact of their not having received their instructions until after they had made their regular assessments, as we were informed by several that they had been obliged on that account to make their reports from memory. We think it more than probable however, judging from previous experience in this and several other States, that we will never be able to obtain a complete list of the Blind within our State limits, until such functionaries shall be so impressed with the importance of accuracy in this matter, as to feel the necessity of making strict inquiry at every house within their respective districts. They are too prone to depend upon their personal knowledge of the families of their constituents, and upon their memory of the situation of each, with regard to such matters. We have often been told by public men in different parts of the country, while travelling in quest of blind pupils, that being acquainted with all the citizens of the counties in which they resided, they knew there were no blind children among them; but have afterwards found several within their immediate neighborhoods, of which they knew nothing or had forgotten them. Blind children are generally shy of strangers, and on the approach of the latter to the houses of their parents, retire out of sight. The parents too from various motives, are not unfrequently averse to having their children exposed to the gaze of strangers and when inquired of by persons appointed to collect such statistics, they are apt to equivocate, especially if their children possess some vision. It is doubtless from these causes that the well known inaccuracy of the United States census arises.

Through the kindness of Dr. E. W. H. Ellis, Auditor of State, we have been enabled to procure the returns of the Blind from some fifty-four counties, in which there was some pains taken to comply with the requisitions of the act heretofore mentioned. These show but two hundred and thirty-five blind persons, of all ages, in said counties, which, from the acknowledged deficiencies in some of these returns, is undoubtedly far below the actual number in these counties. But even supposing this to be a correct statement, we may estimate the whole number in the State, to be no less than four hundred. It is quite probable that the County Officers, in their enumeration, included only those who were totally blind; while there are very many partially blind, who, from their inability to acquire an

education by means of their imperfect vision, are eligible subjects for our institute.

In view of the importance to us of correct information upon this subject, allow me before dismissing it, to suggest the propriety of your recommending to the next Legislature, the passage of a law, making it the annual duty of the appropriate county officers to return to the Auditor of State, the name, age, Post Office address and, in case of minors, the names of the parents or guardians, of each blind person in the State, including all who do not possess sufficient sight to enable them to learn to read and write in the ordinary manner. And, in order to insure accuracy, they should be required to make particular inquiry at every house in the State. This would add but little to the duties of these officers, while it would render us invaluable aid in carrying out the objects of the Institute.

HEALTH.

In all previous communications to your board, it has been our inestimable privilege, to be permitted to report entire immunity from fatal disease, and even a remarkable exemption from sickness of any form; but while the priceless boon of health has still been vouchsafed to nearly all of our numerous household, yet it becomes our painful duty, on this occasion, to record the inroads of Death, into our hitherto unbroken circle. Not only once did the Destroyer let us feel the desolating power of his ruthless hand, but again, and even again, did he make his appearance, plucking from our midst, at each assault, one of the most promising of our number.

GEORGE W. CULBERTSON departed this life on the eighteenth of March, in the nineteenth year of his age. His death was occasioned by Pulmonary Consumption, which was doubtless inherited from his parents, as they both died with the same disease.

The deceased had been a pupil with us from the opening of the school, and as such, won for himself the confidence of his teachers, and the affectionate regard of all his associates. He had been for some time an acceptable member of the Methodist Episcopal Church; and while his loss is mourned by all, we are cheered by the hope that he has been transported to a brighter and better world, upon whose beauties his unsealed eyes may gaze with rapturous delight, and where he has experienced a re-union with his beloved parents.

JOHN S. R. BERGIN died on the twenty-eighth of March, in the sixteenth year of his age, after a painful illness of eight weeks. His death was caused by Typhoid Fever. He, too, was a most exemplary pupil, and possessed an excellent mind. Energetic, industrious, and persevering, he gave promise of much future usefulness ; and had he been spared to us, would undoubtedly have proved an ornament to his class, and an honor to his place of education. Though young he also had made a profession of Religion, and united himself to the Presbyterian Church before entering the Institute.

GEORGE W. HIBBITS died very suddenly, on the fourth of May, with Congestion of the Brain, being in the eleventh year of his age.

George was a remarkably interesting child, possessing, with many noble and amiable traits of disposition, an intellect of more than usual activity. Such, indeed, was his fondness for study, that it not unfrequently became necessary to restrain him ; and it required constant watchfulness on the part of his teachers, to keep him from pouring over his books, while his companions were at play. With such qualities as these, it were needless to add, that he was a universal favorite with us, and that his untimely end was deeply felt by all, as a severe affliction.

Thus have we been called to follow to their last resting place in the silent tomb, three of the brightest ornaments of our school. And while we deeply mourn their departure, we are not unmindful of the sad bereavement sustained by their relatives and friends. Heartily do we sympathize with them in their loss, and rejoice with them in the confident hope that the deceased, on awakening from the sleep of death, will find themselves in a better and happier land, where infirmity can reach them no more. Were it consistent with the nature and limits of a communication like this, it would be a source of inexpressible pleasure, to dwell upon the memory of the departed ones, who had so engrafted themselves upon our affections. A thousand recollections spring up, as we write, which it would be a pleasure to record ; but we must not tarry longer than to assure you, and through you their friends, that during their hours of illness, they received every care and comfort that the physician's art, and the kind attentions of sympathizing friends could minister. In our estimable Matron, whose previous experience, added to a heart full of kindness, eminently qualifies her for the peculiarly arduous duties of the sick chamber, they found a mother, indeed. No parent's hand could

make a smoother pillow, no parent's eye be more sleepless during the long and silent watches of the night, or moisten quicker at each returning paroxysm of pain, than did hers; and we are most happy in being able to pay this slight tribute to her worth.

It must be to you, as it is to us, a matter of heartfelt congratulation, that the deaths of these three pupils are in no wise attributable to our location, or any other circumstance connected with the Institute. The character and diversity of the diseases which carried them off, forbid the slightest apprehension upon this ground.

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

Of the improvement of our pupils in their various school exercises, we are still able to give a satisfactory account, though it must be admitted that their progress has been somewhat retarded by the diminution of our corps of Instructors, about the middle of the last session. We were in consequence obliged to combine classes of different grades, which not only made them too large for efficient instruction, but at the same time kept the more advanced scholars from progressing as they should have done.

The changing of teachers in a school like ours, even where their qualifications are equal, is always to be deprecated; for the new ones must, necessarily labor under no little disadvantage in imparting instruction, before they have time to become acquainted with the peculiar talents and acquirements of their pupils; but when, as is most generally the case, they have had no previous experience in the training of blind children, the loss of time is far greater. It is well understood, that for success in any department of the profession of teaching, much experience is needed, and in ours, this is pre-eminently the case; for though there is no intrinsic defect in the mental structure, consequent upon the absence of sight, there exist, nevertheless, many obstacles to the perfect development of some of the faculties, which obstacles must be appreciated, to be removed, and studied to be appreciated. There are also many irregular tendencies to be guarded against, many acquired peculiarities to be overcome; all of which require much time and experience for the proper understanding of them. If the imparting of knowledge, in some few branches of Science or Literature, were all that is to be done, the necessary preparation for the work would be, comparatively unim-

portant, and appropriate selections of teachers more easily made. But it is quite obvious, that the teacher's duty does not end here, and that higher qualifications are needed for success as an efficient laborer in our cause.

The design of these hints is to call your attention to the high importance of selecting for officers of the Institute, such only as possess undoubted ability, and who will enter upon the work with a heartfelt determination to devote their whole time and energies to it; for these only are fit to engage in it. There are, as you are doubtless aware, many persons who adopt teaching as a temporary means of support, using it as a stepping-stone to some other profession, and it need hardly be remarked, that such have not sufficient interest in the business, to make them truly useful.

About the same routine of study, labor, and recreation, as heretofore reported, has been pursued during the year just closed. In this order our constant aim has been, to so combine their manual and intellectual exercises, and intersperse them with hours of recreation, as to produce a harmonious development of both the mental and physical natures. Nor is the moral being overlooked in our plan of education. On the contrary, every pains is taken to prevent the formation of, or continuation in, improper habits of any kind, and to cultivate in our pupils, a high sense of their moral obligations. Indeed, we would deem any scheme of education defective, which did not have reference to the three-fold nature of man.

MUSIC.

In the Science and Practice of music, our scholars are, through the indefatigable labors of their excellent instructor, making most commendable advancement. The band, comprising some ten or twelve performers, is beginning to execute, in a creditable manner, some quite difficult compositions, while the choir, consisting of almost the entire school, has been taught to perform with equal taste and skill, a goodly variety of Choruses, Anthems, Glees, etc., from the most approved authors. As favorable an account may also be given of the Piano Forte Scholars, of whom there are, at this time, ten or twelve. Several of them, indeed, have advanced sufficiently to commence a course of instruction upon the organ; and as it is our design to prepare these for organists and teachers of music, it is

much to be regretted that we have not an instrument of this kind for them to practice upon. It is presumed, however, that upon the completion of our main building, where there will be a suitable room provided for it, you will adopt early measures to supply this deficiency.

Besides their instruction in the practice of Music, an advanced class have been receiving lessons in Thorough Bass, and Composition. The members of this class have likewise made gratifying progress.

We would not have you underrate the importance of this branch in the education of the Blind. Be it what it may to the Seeing, it is to those who are shut out from the visible beauties of creation, an invaluable accomplishment, whether we regard it as an available means of obtaining an honorable independence, or as a refiner of the affections, and a source of innocent recreation—we speak not of its abuse. As the visible world, with all its pleasing varieties of form, its endless combinations, and beautiful blendings of light and shade, is to the soul that is permitted to look out upon it, and feel its refining, nay, its regenerating influences, so is the world of sound to him who is denied the contemplation of these beauties. "In the varied stream of warbling melody," as it winds its way, in graceful meanderings to the deep recesses of his soul, "or of rich and boundless harmony, as it swells and rolls its pompous tide around him," he finds a solace and a compensation for the absent joys of sight. Consequently, the educated blind musician becomes enthusiastic in his admiration of the Science and Art of Music. "Secluded ever from the joys of vision, he seeks for consolation here. Oft, in the pensive musings of his active mind, when lonely and retired, he contemplates the excellence of music, and seeks the sources of its powerful charms. He runs through the nice gradations, and minute divisions of its scale, and fancies an unlimited extent, in gravity and acuteness, beyond the reach of all perception:—thence he traverses the rich and devious maze of combinations which result from harmony, and all its complicated evolutions—the soft and loud, the mingling light and shade of music—the swelling and decreasing tones, which form the aerial tracery and fading tints of just perspective—all are to him, the body, color, strength and outline, which compose the vivid picture his imagination has created. He ponders next upon the various sounds produced in nature: from the soft and balmy whisper of the vernal breeze, to the loud pealings of the deep-toned thunder, heard

amid the wailings of the fiercely raging storm. Lost in the tumult of his strong emotions, he exclaims : "What is there in the wide creation so sublime, magnificent or beautiful, as sound?"

In saying thus much upon the subject of Music, we would not be understood as advocating its culture to the exclusion of other more substantial studies; we would use it as an auxiliary only, to the intellectual department of instruction, except with the few who are to depend upon it as a means of support.

In addition to the Literary classes heretofore reported, we organized, at the commencement of the present session, one for the study of the German Language. Our reason for so doing is two-fold ; first, in consequence of the rapid increase of the German population in this section of the country, it is being introduced into very many of our best schools for the Seeing; and, secondly, because it will greatly facilitate the acquisition of fluency in the use of the English Language. In view of the difficulties which beset the path of the blind student, in attaining to a free and correct use of language, this last consideration is one of no little importance. From the interest manifested, and the attainments made thus far, we have reason to expect that this class will do well.

Appended to this report, will be found a specimen of poetical composition by one of our female pupils. In addition to the interest arising out of its intrinsic merit, the pleasure of its perusal will doubtless be enhanced by the fact of its having been dictated, as are all the writings of the authoress, to a deaf amanuensis, by means of the manuel alphabet, used by deaf mutes. This amanuensis is her sister, and a pupil of our State Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb. We have also added one from a collection of poems, published by a graduate of the New York Institution for the Blind, which, we think, will be read with interest.

100	Total value of articles manufactured	100
	Chairs	1
	Washers	32
	Master Baskets	22
	Second Baskets	30
	Second Papers	22
	Chairs Papers	2
	Tables	1
	Master Papers	1

WORK DEPARTMENT.

For an account of the operations of the Work Department, since the issuing of our last Report, we would refer you to the following Table of articles manufactured, together with the exhibit of the receipts and expenditures. The latter shows, as usual, the gratifying result of a balance in favor of the department, notwithstanding the cost of instruction, waste of material by beginners, and other drawbacks incident to work-shops like ours.

LIST OF ARTICLES MANUFACTURED,

From November 1st, 1849, to November 1st, 1850.

Number.	BRUSHES.	Amount.
98	Hair Brushes,	
2232	Shoe Brushes,	
12	Flesh Brushes,	
30	Hat & Cloth Brushes,	
374	Clothes Brushes,	
43	Hat Brushes,	
29	Horse Brushes,	
12	Crumb Brushes,	
1	Dentist Brush,	
12	Dusting Brushes,	
2	Sweeping Brushes,	
12	Clamp Scrubs,	
1	Brush Repaired,	
2858		\$392 45
4	Cradles,	
126	Wagons,	
138	Market Baskets,	
196	School Baskets,	
23	Sewing Baskets,	
9	Clothes Baskets,	
4	Reticules,	
7	Baskets Repaired,	
		\$446 08
507		

List of Articles Manufactured—Continued.

Number.	BROOMS.	Amount.
47	Whisks,	
24	Hearth Brooms,	
2415	Sweeping Brooms,	
2486		
320	Yards Carpet Weaving,	86 49
3	Chairs Bottomed,	1 00
	BEAD WORK.	
462	Baskets,	
62	Necklaces,	
1	Toy Bonnet,	
1	Toy Pitcher,	
526		
	KNITTING.	
4	Tidies,	
2	Purses,	
4	Pairs of Socks,	
1	Bag,	
11		
	ZEPHYR WORK.	
9	Lamp Stands,	4 10
	BRAIDING.	
1	Watch Guard,	20
	PLAIN SEWING.	
32	Sheets,	
10	Pairs Pillow Cases,	
49	Towels,	
9	Aprons,	
100	Total value of articles manufactured, . . .	\$1,432 97

Statement of the Business of the Work Department, from November 1st, 1849, to November 1st, 1850.

	CR.
By cash received for Brushes during the year,.....	211 75
By cash received for Willow Work,.....	310 49
By cash received for Brooms,.....	251 58
By cash received for Carpet and Carpet weaving,.....	83 14
By cash received for Mattresses,.....	36 82
By cash received for Mats,.....	3 25
By cash received for Chairs bottomed,.....	1 00
By cash received for Girls' Work,.....	179 11
By value of Brushes on hand, Nov. 1st, 1850,.....	254 80
By value of Willow Work on hand,.....	335 75
By value of Brooms on hand,.....	45 50
By value of Carpeting on hand,.....	5 65
By value of Girls' Work on hand,.....	7 95
By value of Brushes in hands of Agents,.....	86 29
By value of Willow Work in hands of agents,.....	13 40
By amount due for Brushes sold on credit,.....	122 83
By amount due for Willow Work sold on credit,.....	13 10
By amount due for Brooms sold on credit,.....	20 02
By value of Brush material on hand Nov. 1st, 1850,.....	211 25
By value of Willow Work material on hand,.....	128 00
By value of Broom material on hand,.....	197 36
By value of Carpet material on hand,.....	95 50
By value of Mat material on hand,.....	16 00
By value of Girls' work material on hand,.....	86 46
By value of Brushes rec'd by pupils for over-work,.....	79 53
	<hr/> \$2,796 53

	DR.
To value of raw material for Boys' work, on hand November 1st, 1850,.....	531 30
To value of raw material for Girls' work on hand November 1st, 1850,.....	56 95
To value of Boys' work on hand, Nov. 1st, 1849,.....	313 15
To value of Girls' work on hand, Nov. 1st, 1849,.....	11 70
To amount due for articles sold on credit, Nov. 1st, 1849,.....	48 54
To cash paid for Brush material during the year,.....	302 86
To cash paid for Willow work material,.....	265 40
To cash paid for Broom material,.....	316 30
To cash paid for Carpet material,.....	137 21

Statement of the Business of the Work Department—Continued.

	DR.
To cash paid for Mattress material during the year,..	16 87
To cash paid for Mat material,.....	3 00
To cash paid for Girls' work material,.....	80 25
To cash paid for instruction in handicraft,.....	337 50
To cash paid for labor on Brooms,.....	31 09
To cash paid for labor on Baskets,.....	129 97
To cash paid for miscellaneous labor,.....	80 00
To value of overwork done by pupils, paid in brushes, 79 53	2,741 62

01 112	
02 882	
13 994	\$54 91

In the foregoing exhibit, the balance in favor of the shop is not so large as that of either of the previous years. This does not arise however, from a less amount of business having been done; but principally from the following circumstances: first, there was an omission of sixty dollars and thirty-five cents in the account of last year, which is included in the above; secondly, there has been an increase in the expenditure for instruction, amounting to ninety dollars and ninety cents; and thirdly, there has been charged to the department the sum of eighty dollars, for labor, which, under the old arrangement, would have been performed by the Steward. These several sums added together, will nearly make the difference.

In all our previous reports, we have given, as above, an exhibit of the combined operations of our several industrial branches; but in order that you may be better able to compare the results of the different trades, we will hereafter make a separate statement of the condition of each. And in conformity with this design, we present this year, the following abstract of the business operations of the department from the commencement, arranged and classified as in the manner proposed.

16 87	DR.
01 112	
02 882	
13 994	\$54 91

*Statement of the Business of the Work Department from the Opening
of the Institute, to November 1st, 1850.*

BRUSHES.	DR.	CR.
Amount rec'd for manufactur'd articles	570 56	
Value of manufactured articles on hand	341 09	
Value of materials on hand	211 25	
Value of brushes received by pupils for overwork,	211 40	
Value of tools and fixtures on hand,	368 50	
Value of debts due for manufactured articles,	122 83	
	1825 63	
Deduct amount expended for tools and fixtures,	368 50	
Deduct amount expended for material,	852 53	
Deduct amount paid in brushes for over work by pupils,	211 40	
	1432 43	
	393 20	
WILLOW WORK.		
Amount received for manufactured articles,	740 11	
Value of manufactured articles on hand,	349 15	
Value of material on hand,	128 00	
Value of tools and fixtures on hand,	80 37	
Value of debts due for willow work,	13 10	
	1310 73	
Deduct amount expended for tools and fixtures,	80 37	
Deduct amount expended for raw material,	701 98	
Deduct amount expended for labor,	212 14	
	994 49	
	316 24	
MATTRESSES.		
Amount received for mattresses,	394 32	
Value of tools and fixtures on hand,	6 00	
	400 32	

*Statement of the Business of the Work Department from the opening
of the Institute to November 1st 1850—Continued.*

MATTRESSES—Continued.	DR.	CR.
Deduct amount expended for material	195 87	
Deduct amount expended for tools and fixtures,	6 00	
Deduct amount expended for labor	51 50	
	253 37	146 95
CARPET AND MAT WEAVING.		
Am't rec'd for manufactured articles,	98 08	
Value of carpeting and mats on hand,	5 65	
Value of material on hand,	111 50	
Value of tools and fixtures on hand,	35 94	
	251 17	
Deduct amount expended for tools and fixtures,	35 94	
Deduct amount expended for raw material,	194 72	
	230 66	20 51
BROOMS.		
Am't rec'd for manufactured articles,	313 09	
Value of manufactured articles on hand	45 50	
Value of material on hand,	197 36	
Value of tools and fixtures on hand,	49 55	
Value of debts due for brooms,	20 02	
	625 52	
Deduct amount expended for tools and fixtures,	49 55	
Deduct amount expended for raw material,	500 50	
Deduct amount expended for labor,	31 09	
	581 14	44 38

*Statement of the Business of the Work Department from the opening
of the Institute, to November 1st, 1850—Continued.*

GIRLS' WORK.	DR.	CR.
Am'nt rec'd for manufactured articles,		500 47
Value of manufactured articles on hand		7 95
Value of material on hand,		86 46
Value of tools and fixtures on hand,		6 59
		601 47
Deduct amount expended for tools and fixtures,	6 59	
Deduct amount expended for raw material,	213 45	220 04
		381 43
		\$1302 71

Inasmuch as there has been no account made of the labor of the pupils, in the foregoing table, this balance of one thousand three hundred and two dollars, and seventy-one cents, may be regarded as a remuneration for the same. A large portion of it, however, has been expended for instruction in handicraft.

In the early history of any manufacturing establishment, before experience has pointed out the means of procuring apparatus and material to the best advantage, and before a market has been opened for the ready disposal of its products on favorable terms, it necessarily has many disadvantages to contend against. Making due allowance for these, in connection with the other drawbacks heretofore hinted at as incident to establishments like ours, we have abundant reason to consider this department in a prosperous condition. At all events, we do not fear a comparison of its results with those of any similar establishment, during the first three years of its existence.

From the favorable issue of our experiment in the manufacture of corn brooms, we have no hesitation in recommending its continuance as one of the principal branches of our industrial department. The

ease with which it is acquired, by the aid of the machine referred to in our last annual report, the small cost of the necessary outfit, in the way of apparatus, the facility with which material may be procured in any part of the country, and, above all, the ready market every where found for the disposal of stock, recommend this trade to the blind mechanic, as the most reliable one that experience has yet suggested. Such, indeed, is the simplicity of the operation, that but few will be found unable to learn it. The pecuniary result, however, is the proper test of its value; and of this we may form some judgment from the following statement: A good hand, working industriously, can make some two dozen brooms per day, such as we sell at an average price of one dollar and seventy-five cents per dozen. Now supposing the cost of the material consumed in making these brooms, to be two dollars, that is for forty pounds of corn, at four cents per pound; two dozen handles at one and a fourth cents a piece; and for twine ten cents, the net profit on a day's work will be one dollar and fifty cents. If the workman is so situated as to be able to raise his own corn, instead of paying for it at the rate of eighty dollars per ton, his earnings will be correspondingly increased. This amount is of course subject to some reduction on account of shop rent, and other incidental expenses, but we believe it to be a fair estimate.

The business has so far yielded but a small profit to the Institute; but this is no more than we had a right to expect from its being an entirely new one with us.

Several of our young men who left us at the close of the last session are about making a trial of the business on their own account, and we hope to be able in our next report to give an encouraging statement of their success. Besides these, Mr. W. G. Yates, a former pupil of the New York Institution for the Blind, who was employed during the last two sessions as an assistant in the willow department of our establishment, having learned the broom-making while with us, has already established himself in the business in our city, and is apparently doing very well.

Of the other trades, the brush-making in particular, we cannot speak so favorably; mainly, on account of the difficulty met with, in disposing of the manufactured articles. The demand for these is not so general nor so steady as that for brooms, and there are probably but few blind mechanics who are able to bear a heavy accumulation of stock.

In most of the older institutions, there has of late been felt, much discouragement on the account of the heavy accumulation of manufactured articles in their ware-rooms, they having been unable to dispose of them as fast as they have been produced. It has been found too, that the shops do not yield sufficient profit, independent of this cause to justify them in the expectation that their pupils will find the trades learned a reliable means of support after leaving school. In short, they have found the mechanical department rather a burden than otherwise, and have been induced to persevere only by the conviction, that this is their main source of hope for the independence of the Blind.

We have not yet felt this difficulty to any serious extent; but from the experience of others, have no right to expect exemption, while we continue to follow their system of management. We know not that a better one can be devised, all things considered, but are willing to offer a few suggestions for your consideration.

In reflecting upon this subject, the thought has often occurred to us, that if private individuals can make the manufacture of brushes, baskets, mattresses, brooms, foot mats, carpeting, &c. yield them a profit after paying for the labor expended upon them, surely our institutions whose inmates are acknowledged to make those articles as well as others, ought to do so, when no account is made of the labor of the workmen. The fact that they do not, would seem to arise from one or both of these causes: either we are pursuing an imperfect system, or the work shops are under the charge of persons possessing very poor business qualifications; for the ordinary explanation, that it is in consequence of the unavoidable waste of material and cost of instruction, is not to us a satisfactory one.

With regard to the prevailing system of management, we would remark that we consider it defective in this important particular, that the business concerns of this department, are managed by salaried officers, instead of those who are personally interested in its pecuniary results as is the case with all private establishments. With those who are conversant with the history of public works in this or any other State, no other argument is necessary to demonstrate the superiority of the latter over the former system than a reference to their experience. We would not be understood to attribute a want of proper interest to persons engaged in this or any other institution. We only wish to express the conviction that if

master mechanics in our institutions were personally interested in the profits of the workshops, we would be more likely to procure the services of responsible men who have learned the trades regularly and thoroughly in all their details, material would be purchased and used more economically, the wares would be made better and faster, and stock would not be allowed to accumulate upon our hands. The ground of this belief will appear hereafter. This is not a mere fancy of ours, for the principle is understood and acted upon by the business community throughout the world.

Another defective principle is, (and this arises out of the present unprofitableness of the workshops,) that of throwing the responsibility of purchasing material and selling stock upon the Superintendents, instead of employing competent mechanics or tradesman, who are well versed in the practical details of business operations. It is true, we have mechanics as the immediate supervisors of the handicraft departments, but there is little or no responsibility vested in them; nor have they time consistently with their duties in the shops to devote to the mercantile affairs of the establishment, since these unlike other shops are filled with apprentices instead of journeymen who require their constant presence for instructions and government. Now it is a fact generally understood and admitted, that men who give their principal attention to Literary and Scientific matters, and such only are fit for the office of Superintendent, are seldom found to be efficient business men. The sphere of action, the tastes, and in fact the whole associations of the scholar are so widely different from those of the mechanic or tradesman, that it is next to impossible to find a man in whom the two characters are so combined as to render him practically useful in a double capacity. And even were it otherwise, the multifarious duties, regular and incidental, connected with the educational department of an institution for the Blind are such, that a proper discharge of them does not leave the Superintendent time to attend even to the general concerns of the industrial department.

In a word, if we would compete successfully in the manufacture and sale of any class of goods, with establishments, owned and managed as individual enterprises, we must be governed by the principles which have been arrived at by these establishments after long ages of experience, which can only be done by converting our manufacturing interests into individual enterprises, so to speak, or if we fail of success, must not complain.

It cannot be denied, that there are some parts, even of the simple trades taught in our institutions, which are executed by the Blind under great disadvantage; and one of the good results to be expected from the proposed change, is the confining of their attention to those parts which they can perform most successfully, or in other words the introduction of the principle of division of labor; for the master mechanic, with his perceptions quickened by self-interest, would soon discover these and avail himself of the principle alluded to, giving the difficult parts to seeing persons. Besides, he would be able by the same means, to introduce some new trades, thus enlarging the field of the blind workman and enabling him in many instances to make a better selection of employments. But it may be objected that this would restrict their knowledge, and prevent their learning the whole of any trade; to this we would reply, that if seeing mechanics find it necessary to confine themselves to one branch of a certain trade, so much the more necessary is it for blind ones to do so. The truth is, we have attempted too much and failed. We must now go back, and commence again with new principles suggested by our experience.

In carrying out the plan hinted at, there would doubtless be some difficulties met with, arising out of the separate interests of the master mechanic from those of the Institution, such for instance as the proper regulation of the kind of occupation for each pupil, and the time to be devoted to the workshops. Nevertheless with judicious restrictions, these obstacles might surely be overcome. It is at least worth a trial, as the old plan seems, in a great measure to have failed.

Considerable discussion has taken place within the last few years, among the older institutions of our country, upon the necessity of a "Home for the Industrious Blind," in connection with each educational institution, which shall have for its object, the furnishing of steady employment to its graduate pupils, together with comfortable boarding at such rates as their small earnings may enable them to pay. This necessity, they conceive to be forced upon them by the failure of their graduates to meet their expectations in the way of self-maintenance, when thrown entirely upon their own resources. Indeed, the managers of the New York Institution have progressed so far in this work as to have erected a large brick building for this express object; while those of the New England and Pennsylvania Institutions, have taken some incipient steps towards the same end.

There are many arguments adduced, for and against the organization of this supplementary department, in the late reports of the above named institutions, yet they all seem to agree in the opinion, that the wants of the educated Blind demand it. As a discussion of the subject here, at the present period of the history of our institute, would seem to be premature, we would respectfully refer you to these reports, and recommend their perusal. We would suggest however, that through an anxiety to demonstrate fully the necessity of this step, there has been in some instances, a disposition manifested to underrate the actual ability of the Blind for self-maintenance. Now we would by no means wish to disguise either from themselves or the public, that blindness is a misfortune; but we think it due to both, that the matter should be discussed soberly and impartially, with a strict adherence to known facts, and with a willingness to set aside all theory and speculation. The Blind surely have enough to contend with in "The Battle of Life" upon their entrance into its strife without having their minds prepared before hand to expect defeat. Let us rather point out only the real difficulties, and by keeping before their view the inestimable value of the prize for which they are contending, stimulate them to energetic and persevering effort.

While it may be inexpedient for us to enter directly into a discussion of the merits of the question, as to whether the supplementary establishment alluded to is necessary or not, and if so, how it should be organized and conducted, we may with propriety examine the alleged cause of this necessity, with a view to its removal, wholly or in part, if possible; and by so doing, defer the evil for a time at least so far as the Indiana Institution is concerned. We call it an evil, because it is admitted to be such on all hands, both on account of the expense, and of the prejudicial effect to be apprehended from such a permanent congregation of blind adults, upon their own moral and social affections. The proposition may be stated as follows:

Though the inmates of our several institutions are taught thoroughly in the knowledge of certain mechanical branches, yet they fail, with few exceptions, to make this knowledge available as a means of subsistence after leaving school, in consequence of their inability to manage their general business concerns, particularly the purchase of material and the sale of their stock.

Now, let us in the first place compare the training of our blind apprentices with that of seeing ones, and see whether in this respect they are equal competitors, or in other words, whether their training is equally thorough. The latter enter upon their apprenticeship, as a general thing, with some experience in the use of tools, and with more or less cultivation of their manual powers, derived from the ordinary occupations and sports of youth; and as their employers are interested in the product of their labor, they are provided with every means of facilitating their progress, while, being obliged to work late and early, they are taxed to the utmost of their ability, which of course rapidly develops their powers and increases their dexterity in the use of tools. The former, on the contrary, have not the benefit of this early preparation, for they have never been allowed to handle tools, or to unite in those employments and pastimes which have tended to develop the powers of the seeing youth; and while acquiring their trades in institutions, they have not the same efficient training in several particulars; first, their time and attention are divided between their work and their studies, being expected to acquire both education and trades in about the space of time which is usually devoted to the latter; secondly, they are not, under the present system, provided with the same facilities, not required to labor as industriously, or to execute their work as well as if their instructors were to profit or lose by their labor; and thirdly, such is the genius of our institutions, that the sympathies of the officers and of the community will not allow them to be subjected to that rigid course of treatment which gives physical endurance to the seeing mechanic. Now if these things are true, and we feel confident that they will be admitted to be so, excepting in a few remarkable instances, by all of experience in this work, can we say that our graduates have been made thorough mechanics? Again, let us examine why those who form the exceptions, so generally fail to maintain themselves by means of their trades. We doubt not that a satisfactory explanation of this, may be found in the want of a proper development of those powers which form a sturdy, energetic character and induce a feeling of self-reliance; for we are not among those who associate with the loss of sight, a necessary or intrinsic inferiority of mental and physical constitution, because of the occasional connection of the two as effects of a common cause. Where blind persons have succeeded, it will be found that their opportunities for the kind of culture alluded to, have invariably been different.

from those of the mass. In order to make ourselves better understood, allow us to trace briefly the history of a blind child, as he is ordinarily circumstanced. Born with his infirmity, or losing his sight in childhood, he is early taught the lesson of dependence by his anxious and too indulgent parents, who, while his more fortunate companions are allowed to roam the fields and woods in gleesome frolic, or join in the wonted, invigorating sports of youth, confine him to the chimney corner, or at most the limited range of the door yard, lest some harm may befall him. He is seldom allowed to act or even to think for himself, for his every want is anticipated. He is constantly reminded of his misfortune by being told in pitying accents, of the beauty and sublimity of the earth beneath with its endless variety and combinations of form and color, upon which all may gaze but himself, or of the heavens above, whose myriads of shining worlds shed in vain for him their brilliant rays, and traverse the limitless regions of space in matchless harmony; and rendered morbidly sensitive by the ill judged remarks made in his presence by those who forget that he has ears to hear, or a heart to feel. He is indulged in every whim or caprice, and allowed to commit with impunity, a thousand acts for which another child would be punished. While the companions of his youth are sent to school, or are engaged in some useful occupation, he is taught to regard himself as incapacitated for either, and is left to brood over his deprivation with serious distrust of the justice and mercy of a God, who permits him to be thus afflicted without apparent cause.

He is at last sent, with many misgivings on the part of his parents, as to the kind of treatment he is likely to meet with from the hands of strangers, to an institution for education, where it is expected that he will be fitted for successful competition with his early associates in the struggle for independence. And need we say, that he commences his school career in a condition far different from that of the seeing scholar? That his bodily and mental powers are comparatively dormant, if not positively injured from want of exercise, that he is a prey to despondency, with sensibilities painfully acute, and disposition soured by excessive indulgence, and that he lacks that sturdy self-reliance which belongs to other youths of the same age? The truth is, he has learned to regard himself as a poor unfortunate, who must not put forth a single effort of body or mind to help himself, and therefore feels that it is the business of the rest of the world

to minister to his comfort and pleasure. And allow us to say in this connection, that in the reformation of his character in this respect, consists the most difficult and laborous part of his instructor's labors. It is moreover, the most important; for until this is effected, but little progress can be made in the acquisition of knowledge.

But to return, in due course of time our hero has completed his studies; his intellect has been cultivated and stored with knowledge, he has learned a trade; he has acquired better use of his physical powers and is comparatively independent; he is no longer the despondent being that he was, but his heart is cheered and elated with hope. He is in truth transformed, and such a reaction has taken place in his feelings under the influence of his institution associations, that he has forgotten his affliction, and even dreams that his deprivation gives him superiority over other men—Happy being! Would that this spell were destined never to be broken by the stern reality of thy situation.

Full of confident expectation, he bids adieu to the happy scenes and associates of his late home, and launches his bark upon the sea of life, but alas! It founders in the first billow that intercepts its course. He has failed just where almost any other person with even inferior education and skill in his trade, would have been successful, and must fall back disconsolate upon his friends or upon his "Alma Mater," thus assisting to create a necessity for the establishment spoken of above; or if neither of these resources is open to him, adopts some itinerant profession for which he is but poorly fitted, and which is still less adapted to him.

But why did he not succeed? Simply because, despite his school education and qualifications as a mechanic, he is still a child in knowledge of the ways of the world, his character is yet undeveloped, so far as concerns those faculties which produce energy, self-reliance and endurance. His institution training has been but little better in this respect, than his home training. Cut off from all business connection with the outward world, during the years preceding maturity, when the character should be forming, and all his wants being supplied without the cost of a single thought on his part, what means has he had for the cultivation of those traits which constitute true manliness? There are doubtless but few, who reflect upon the depressing influences of eleemosynary aid upon the characters of its recipients. The experienced directors however, of charitable insti-

tutions of any kind, will recognize in it the source of nearly all the discontent and insubordination of their inmates.

It has not been our design in the foregoing remarks, to discourage the efforts now being made for the founding of these supplementary institutions. We have wished, simply, to direct your attention to the cause, which in the present state of things, makes such a step desirable, in the hope that some way may be devised to overcome this difficulty, at least in part. Could this be done, all must agree that it would be incalculably better than to take measures for augmenting the evil, which would be the inevitable result of such establishments. As a member of the class whose cause the writer is advocating, he would say, most emphatically, give us independence, though it may be in a sphere the most humble; enable us to feel ourselves as men amongst men, though it may cost us many a discomfort, to pass through the ordeal which is to confer this ability. Life is at best, but a wearisome pilgrimage, and he who has the heaviest burden to bear, must nerve himself the stronger for the task, and meet his destiny with resignation. Those of our class who have succeeded in surmounting the heavy pressure of their surrounding circumstances, have not been able, you may be assured, to do so without indomitable perseverance. It is truly no easy task to overcome the natural inward misgivings, and stem the torrent of public distrust.

Before dismissing this subject, permit us to express more fully the conviction hinted at, in the course of the foregoing remarks, that there has hitherto been manifested, in some, at least, of our institutions, as well as with the parents of their pupils, too much slackness of discipline. It is, without doubt, difficult for instructors to overcome their natural sympathies, and equally hard for pupils to submit cheerfully, to rigid government; but if such is essential to thorough education, there must be no flinching from duty on the part of either teachers or scholars. If it is necessary for others to bend their entire energies to the pursuit of some one definite object, in order to attain to proficiency, it is clearly so, in a higher degree, for Blind persons. This yielding to their desire to change from one thing to another, is the most fruitful source of the inefficiency complained of. Likewise the attempt to take those through a literary course, who enter institutions after arriving nearly or quite to maturity, however much it may accord with our feelings of kindness, is another source

of inefficiency; because more is undertaken than can be accomplished. It is fully as much as such can do, to learn a trade in the short time they are willing to remain at school. Were more attention given to these matters, we would have among our graduates, more industrious mechanics, and fewer solicitors of alms, under cover of concert-giving, lecturing and autobiography-writing. Allusion is made to those only who are unfit for these occupations.

The practice which prevails in most of the institutions, of keeping some of their pupils during the vacations, instead of returning them to their friends, also comes in for its share of the responsibility of perpetuating the evil under notice. It undoubtedly has its origin in benevolence, as this class are mostly destitute of comfortable homes, compared with those afforded by the institutions; but we cannot, with justice, call that benevolence which produces evil, rather than good, to its object. Instances are not unfrequent, however, in which pupils are permitted to remain, because their friends fail to provide a way for them to go home. Our own practice has hitherto been, to require all to leave, even though we have been obliged in some cases to bear their travelling expenses. Where they are without parents, we send them to some near relative; or where they have been county charges, we return them to the county officers, to be provided for during the vacations. Even though we should be obliged to pay for the boarding of such out of the institution, we would conceive it to be better for them, than to retain them in it. The design of our institutions is not to provide asylums for the Blind, but to educate them, with the expectation that they will return to the bosom of society, and take their places as useful citizens, so far as possible. Is it not better then, that they should keep up their acquaintance with the outward world? It most certainly is, and particularly with that part of it which is to be their future home. There are many other reasons why this practice is objectionable, but they are too obvious to need mention here.

But while we would fain throw out a few suggestions for the consideration of the conductors of our several institutions, we would by no means overlook the duty which devolves upon parents in this matter. They have much, very much, to do in this proposed reformation; for, while they continue to rear their children in the erroneous manner described, and to keep them at home in idleness during their best days for instruction, the efforts of the educator will be compara-

tively futile. No blind child should be kept from school after arriving at his twelfth year; and if he can be sent as early as nine or ten, it will be still better. The amount of injury done by parents in their neglect of this matter, is incalculable. We have in our own school, and doubt not that the same is the case with all the others, numerous instances, in which pupils have been sent to us too late for thorough education, notwithstanding our almost incessant labors with their friends, from its commencement, at which time they were far better fitted to profit by our instruction. There are, moreover, many others, in different parts of the State, with whom we are still earnestly pleading, but in vain, to accept the blessings vouchsafed to them by an All-merciful Providence, through the humble instrumentality of the Institute.

HOUSEHOLD DEPARTMENT.

In the management of the domestic economy of the establishment, the usual attention has been given to the promotion of the comfort of the pupils. As the number of our family has been somewhat greater during the past year, than that of the previous one, there has of course been some increase in the disbursements of this department; but if we take into account the unusually high price of provisions of all kinds, together with the fact that the present report embraces one month more than the last, it must be admitted that there has been a relative diminution of expense.

with taste, good taste, and good and bluid bluid. *W*hile *clitū* *globo* *to* *and* *in* *globo* *as* *that* *ad* *meo* *ad* *li* *but* *many* *difficult* *to* *get*

The thanks of the Institute are due to the proprietors of the several newspapers and periodicals named below, for their kindness in sending us, without charge, copies of their respective publications. Most of them have been received during the entire year, while the rest have been regularly forwarded for a greater or less part of the time.

INDIANA STATE JOURNAL,
 INDIANA STATE SENTINEL,
 INDIANA STATESMAN,
 FAMILY VISITER,
 LOCOMOTIVE,
 CHRISTIAN RECORD,
 ST. JOSEPH VALLEY REGISTER,
 MONTGOMERY JOURNAL,
 NEW ALBANY LEDGER,
 RICHMOND PALLADIUM,
 VINCENNES GAZETTE,
 DEMOCRATIC PHAROS,
 MADISON WEEKLY COURIER,
 INDIANA REGISTER,
 WAYNE COUNTY WHIG,
 DEMOCATIC CLARION,
 DECATUR CLARION,
 ANDERSON GAZETTE,
 WASHINGTON DEMOCRAT,
 INDIANA TRIBUNE,
 WESTERN CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE, (Cin.)
 NON-SLAVEHOLDER, (Philad'a.)

In conclusion, allow me gentlemen, to ask your serious attention to the foregoing remarks upon the proper training of the Blind, for the duties and relations of practical life. This matter has heretofore received too little attention. The aim has apparently been to make prodigies, rather than sturdy, practical men. The time has now arrived, however, for a change; and unless it shall be made, our system must fail to realize the lofty hopes of its benevolent founders. Look abroad in the world, and we will find that nearly all the poverty and pauperism in it, are attributable to this lack of energetic training, this want of development of those powers from which is derived the true dignity of man. How then can we expect for the Blind, exemption from the penalty consequent upon the infringement of this plain, but important law of our being?

Very Respectfully,

W. H. CHURCHMAN.

INDIANAPOLIS, Nov. 1, 1850.

soitsette twelue troy lbs of comelyng am wolle , noedlonge al
 tot , baillI oft le gaient report ed' nowz chamer pricoyrol oft al
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 adam of usd ymengys and nis ed' . soitsette elijil oft bevison
 -is wod oft eml ed' . am faciesq , whate matt redint , regiboy
 eye we

COMPOSITION BY MARGARET BELCHES,

ON THE DEATH OF THE PUPILS REFERRED TO IN THE FOREGOING REPORT.

They sleep in Jesus, calmly, sweetly now,
 No pang of sorrow thrills the youthful breast ;
 The cold, damp earth is on the sunny brow,
 And they have found, at last, a place of rest.

Their Saviour led them through death's portals dim,

They trusted all in Him.

Few kindred's smiles illumed their darksome way ;
 Lone pilgrims all in life's drear wilderness,
 Their father smiled in realms of endless day,
 And beckoned them to homes of fadeless bliss—
 Homes, where the hearts' fond breathings know no blight,
 In everlasting light.

We miss them, when at hour of prayer we meet :
 We hear not now, when hymns of praise arise,
 Their tuneful tones ; and on each vacant seat
 We muse with quivering lip and tearful eyes—
 But wherefore weep, to meet them here no more ?
 They are but gone before.

We thank thee, Lord, that in each stricken heart,
 The radiant star of hope doth brightly shine ;
 And while we weep that thus we early part,
 We bless the chast'ning hand, for it is Thine ;
 We know Thy Mercy, Lord—Thy righteous ways ;
 And while we mourn, we praise.

COMPOSITION BY ALICE HOLMES.

A GRADUATE OF THE NEW YORK INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND. WRITTEN ON LEAVING THE
INSTITUTION.

Adieu, adien, my long loved home,
Where genial spirits dwell,
For I must bid thy hearth and halls,
This day, a sad farewell.
Thy vesper bell will peal at eve,
But not, alas ! for me ;
For I shall be alone and sad,
Far, far away from thee !

Adieu, adieu, my guides beloved ;
I may no longer share
Your kind regards, your patient toil,
Your ever-watchful care.
Fain, fain with you I'd linger still,
And more of knowledge gain ;
But 'tis decreed that I must go,
The wish to stay is vain.

Adieu, adieu, companions dear ;
My sisters, brothers, friends ;
This day completes my stay with you,
This day our union ends.
But oh ! how can I, can I bear
To hear the death-like knell,
That bids me tear my heart away
From those I love so well !

Adieu, adieu ! it must be so !
The moment now is near
That bids me hasten from you away,
My long-loved school-mates dear.
When ye this eve at vespers meet,
To chant a choral lay,
Oh, breathe for her one heartfelt prayer,
Who will be far away.

Adieu, adieu, ye noble sires,
 Whose philanthropic hearts
 Have formed a plan, that e'en the **BLIND**
 May learn the useful arts.
 Expressions fit your praise to speak,
 I know not where to find ;
 May God reward your efforts made
 To educate the blind.

Adieu, adieu ! too happy hours
 That learning did employ,
 And gave for every moment's toil,
 A sweet reward of joy :
 For they will be no longer mine,
 My school-day joys are o'er.
 Far dearer should I prize them now,
 Could they return once more.

Adieu, adieu to morning walks
 Along the Hudson's side,
 Where oft amid the rocks we heard
 The music of the tide :
 And wanderings at twilight hour,
 Through grove, by hill and stream,
 That I have ever fondly prized,
 But dearer now they seem.

Adieu, adieu to music's charm,
 From it, too, I must part ;
 Much shall I miss its magic power,
 To cheer my lonely heart.
 Adieu, ye birds, at early dawn
 That near my casement sung,
 While all around the waking flowers
 Their soft, sweet odors flung.

Adieu, adieu, ye trees and flowers,
 And pleasant play-grounds, all ;
 A voice for me is calling now,
 From yonder front-door hall.
 The stately domicil demands
 A parting farewell, too ;
 But oh ! 'tis sad, to all we've loved,
 At once to bid adieu !

Adieu, adieu, my cloister home,
 With all thy hallowed ties ;
 The precepts thou hast given me,
 Most dearly I shall prize.
 Trials, perchance, await me now,
 I know not yet my lot ;

But be it weal, or be it woe,
Thou shalt not be forgot.

Adieu, once more, ye loved ones all !
 Forgive these gushing tears.
And all the wrongs I you have done,
 Through seven by-gone years.
Still in your hearts, oh, let me live,
 Till ye are called to die ;—
Oh, now they lead me to the gate !
 Loved home—good-by—good-by !

TREASURER

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Dr. S. W. NORRIS, Treasurer of the Indiana Institute for the Blind. Cr.

		1849.		
1850.	To balance on hand at last annual report, To cash, being proceeds of loan from the Sinking Fund, of \$500 00 for 2 months, interest being deducted,	\$1,267 92	Nov. 9,	Paid W. H. Churchman, advanced for cur- rent expenses of Institute, - - - - -
March 2,	To cash received of Treasurer of State,	495 00	Nov. 9,	Paid Morris & Bro. for freight on wagon wheels, - - - - -
March 2,	To cash received of Treasurer of State,	2,500 00	Dec. 11,	Paid A. A. Louden, for putting on second coat of roof, - - - - -
April 8,	To cash received of Treasurer of State,	500 00	Dec. 11,	Paid D. W. Noble, for broom corn and machine, - - - - -
May 7,	To cash received of Treasurer of State,	1,000 00	Dec. 11,	Paid W. H. Churchman, advanced for cur- rent expenses of Institute, - - - - -
June 10,	To cash received of Treasurer of State,	500 00	1850.	Paid Morris & Bro. for freight on raw ma- terial, - - - - -
July 6,	To cash received of Treasurer of State,	100 00	January 7,	Paid F. Thayer for embossed books, - - - - -
July 18,	To cash received of Treasurer of State,	1,100 00	January 7,	Paid W. A. Holliday for wood, - - - - -
August 3,	To cash received of Treasurer of State,	1,000 00	January 7,	Paid Blythe & Hedderly for bristles, - - - - -
August 27,	To cash received of Treasurer of State,	2,000 00	January 7,	Paid W. H. Churchman 1 qr. salary, - - - - -
October 7,	To cash received of Treasurer of State,	2,000 00	January 7,	Paid L. S. Newell 1 qr. salary, - - - - -
October 31,	To cash refunded by T. Kite on account of heating apparatus, - - - - -	200 00	January 7,	Paid S. McGiffin 1 qr. salary, - - - - -
November 4,	To cash received of Treasurer of State,	81 09	January 7,	Paid M. G. Demoss 1 qr. salary, - - - - -
November 4,	To cash received from Proprietors of block No. 6 for gravel off of Institute premises,	25 00	January 7,	Paid E. M. Curtis 1 qr. salary, - - - - -
November 4,	To cash received at Institute for manu- factured articles and disbursed by Superin- tendent, - - - - -	1,083 14	January 7,	Paid E. M. Hamilton 1 qr. salary, - - - - -
		\$14,852 15	February 6,	Paid W. H. Churchman, advanced for cur- rent expenses of Institute, - - - - -
			February 6,	Paid J. W. Hamilton for insurance on per- sonal property of the Institute, - - - - -
			February 6,	Paid M. G. Demoss for extra services, - - - - -
			March 2,	Paid W. H. Churchman, advanced for cur- rent expenses of Institute, - - - - -
			March 2,	Paid Morris & Bro. for freight on willows, - - - - -
			March 2,	Paid Henry Duflot for willows, - - - - -
			March 2,	Paid Paradise, Lawrason & Co. for willows, - - - - -

March 2,	Paid E. M. Hamilton $\frac{2}{3}$ qr. salary, -	25 00
March 2,	Paid W. H. Churchman, advanced for current expenses of Institute, -	250 00
March 2,	Paid Sinking Fund in discharge of loan, -	2,500 00
April 6,	Paid M. & I. Railroad for freight on willows, -	33 60
April 6,	Paid W. H. Churchman 1 qr. salary, -	200 00
April 6,	Paid L. S. Newell 1 qr. salary, -	100 00
April 6,	Paid S. McGiffin 1 qr. salary, -	62 50
April 6,	Paid M. G. Demoss 1 qr. salary, -	62 50
April 6,	Paid E. M. Curtis 1 qr. salary, -	37 50
April 6,	Paid W. H. Churchman, advanced for current expenses of Institute, -	400 00
May 6,	Paid M. Snider for work material and school apparatus, -	106 02
May 6,	Paid Blythe & McNeely for bristles, -	91 75
May 6,	Paid W. H. Churchman, advanced for current expenses of Institute, -	200 00
June 10,	Paid W. H. Churchman, advanced for current expenses of Institute, -	250 00
June 10,	Paid Mansur & Sons for bristles, -	38 30
June 10,	Paid Wm. A. Holliday for wood, -	15 00
June 10,	Paid J. Elder for drawing plans of main building, -	40 00
July 6,	Paid C. & J. Cox for iron and tin ware, -	15 16
July 6,	Paid A. W. Pennaman for ironing stove, -	25 00
July 6,	Paid W. H. Churchman 1 qr. salary, -	200 00
July 6,	Paid L. S. Newell 1 qr. salary, -	125 00
July 6,	Paid S. McGiffin 1 qr. salary, -	62 50
July 6,	Paid M. G. Demoss 1 qr. salary, -	62 50
July 6,	Paid M. M. Churchman 1 qr. salary, -	50 00
July 6,	Paid W. H. Churchman, advanced for current expenses of Institute, -	250 00
July 6,	Paid W. H. Churchman, advanced for pupils' clothing, -	80 00
July 17,	Paid W. H. Churchman 1 qr. salary, -	200 00
July 17,	Paid L. S. Newell 1 qr. salary, -	125 00
July 17,	Paid S. McGiffin 1 qr. salary, -	62 50

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Dr. S. W. NORRIS, Treasurer of the Indiana Institute for the Blind. Cr.

July 17,	Paid M. M. Churchman 1 qr. salary, -	50 00
July 17,	Paid E. C. Croas on account for excavating cellar, - - - - -	97 12
August 3,	Paid Wm. Hanlin on acct. for mason work,	600 00
August 3,	Paid E. C. Croas on account for excavating cellar, - - - - -	150 00
August 3,	Paid M. & V. Byrkit on account for building stable and carriage house, - -	400 00
August 3,	Paid Thomas Moore for wood, - -	75 00
August 10,	Paid Wm. Hanlin on acct. for mason work,	700 00
August 19,	Paid W. H. Churchman for expenses of tour with pupils, - - - - -	101 35
August 19,	Paid Michael Shea for tearing down old building, - - - - -	33 50
August 19,	Paid W. H. Churchman, advanced for current expenses of Institute, - -	150 00
August 19,	Paid E. C. Croas in full for excavating cellar and other work, - -	38 43
August 19,	Paid M. & V. Byrkit on account for building stable and carriage house, -	400 00
August 26,	Paid W. Hanlin on account for mason work,	700 00
August 26,	Paid M. & V. Byrkit, balance for building stable and carriage house, - -	101 59
Sep. 9,	Paid M. & V. Byrkit for sundry carpenter work, - - - - -	23 52
Oct. 8,	Paid Wm. Hanlin, balance for erecting cellar walls of main building, - -	1,308 19
Oct. 9,	Paid J. Woods for surveying, - -	16 00
Oct. 8,	Paid M. G. Demoss 1 qr. salary, -	62 50
Oct. 8,	Paid G. W. Brooks for plumbing, -	30 83

and the *U.S. News & World Report* has twice named the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society* the best journal in geriatrics.

Expressing the subject's intention or the result?

Oct. 8,	Paid W. H. Churchman, advanced for current expenses of Institute, - - -	300 00
Oct. 8,	Paid W. Evans & Co. for mason work on furnace, - - - -	69 65
Oct. 8,	Paid Drs. Mears & Bullard for medical services, - - - -	60 00
Nov. 2,	Paid J. Guion for broom corn, - -	137 36
Nov. 2,	Paid T. Kite for sheet iron work on furnace, - - - -	81 27
Nov. 2,	Paid Kielshaw & Sinker for sheet iron work on furnace, - - - -	18 70
Nov. 2,	Paid Wm. Hanlin for grading, - -	47 00
Nov. 2,	Paid J. Foot for brick, - -	19 52
Nov. 2,	Paid J. Coen for painting and glazing,	12 07
Nov. 2,	Paid M. Snider for work material and specimens for reports, - - - -	178 00
Nov. 2,	Paid M. Byrkit for broom machine and sundry carpenter work, - - - -	57 05
Nov. 2,	Paid T. Moore for wood, - - - -	75 00
Nov. 2,	Paid N. Y. Institute for the Blind, for embossed books, - - - -	22 00
Nov. 2,	Paid E. C. Croas for filling in side walk,	15 00
Nov. 2,	By cash received at Institute for manufactured articles, and applied by Superintendent, for current expenses of Institute,	1,083 14

INDIANAPOLIS, November 1st, 1850.

S. W. NORRIS, *Treasurer.*

15

ADMISSION OF PUPILS.

Any person wishing to make application for the admission of a pupil into the Institute, should address either the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, or the Superintendent of the Institute, giving definite and accurate information upon the following points, viz:

1. The name of the applicant and that of his parent or guardian, together with the Post Office address of the latter.
2. The date of the birth of the applicant.
3. The cause of his Blindness, and the age at which it occurred.
4. Whether he is of sound mind and susceptible of intellectual culture.
5. Whether he is free from bodily deformity and infectious disease.
6. Whether his personal habits and moral character are good.

Upon the receipt of such application, it will be acted upon by the Trustees, and the applicant informed of the result.

No pupil should be sent to the Institute until the above preliminary step shall have been taken.

To residents of the State no charge is made for the boarding and instruction of their children; but pupils are in all cases expected to come provided with a change of good comfortable clothing, which must be replenished by their friends from time to time, as it becomes necessary. Where parents or guardians are unable through indigence to provide the necessary clothing, the commissioners of the counties in which they reside are authorized by law to furnish the same in their stead.

All traveling expenses of the pupils to and from the Institute must be borne by their friends.

All books, musical instruments and other apparatus required for the use of the pupils during their term of instruction, are furnished by the Institute free of charge.

The school commences its sessions on the first Monday in October, and closes on the last Wednesday in July, leaving a vacation of more than two months during the warm season, which is spent by the pupils at their homes.

It is important that new pupils should enter upon their term of instruction at the commencement of a session, and it is expected of all the others that they shall be present at the opening of the school, and remain until it closes on the last day of the session.

As a general rule applicants are not admitted who are over twenty-one years of age, but exceptions are sometimes made in favor of persons who are of undoubted ability, and free from all objectionable habits.

